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VETERANS FOR PEACE NEWS

MINNESOTA VETERANS FOR PEACE, CHAPTER 27

Veterans for Peace News is published quarterly by Minnesota Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27.

Veterans for Peace works to increase awareness of the costs of war, restrain government from intervening in the internal affairs of other nations, end the arms race, reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons, seek justice for veterans and victims of war, and abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

We pledge to use democratic and nonviolent means to achieve our purpose.

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"There won't be any trumpets blowing come the Judgement Day — on the bloody morning after, one tin soldier rides away..."
(Potter & Lambert)

Marv Davidov, 1932-2012



Marv Davidov (third from left), peace and justice activist, died in January after a lengthy illness. Michael Orange (far right) wrote a tribute to him that appears on page 6. Also pictured: Chante Wolfe, left, and Dave Logsdon, second from left.

The 9th anniversary of Shock and Awe: A fast and program

by Wayne Wittman

On March 19, 2003, the United States, after amassing an overwhelming military force, invaded Iraq. This attack was initiated after the United States had presented its case for this invasion to the United Nations Security Council and failed to convince the world that Iraq was a threat to the peace and security of the world.

Veterans for Peace and many peace-oriented organizations opposed this action, and the polls showed that 50 percent of the American people also opposed it. But leaders of both parties tied the Iraq government to the tragedies of 9/11 and manufactured evidence of the availability of nuclear weapons and

other weapons of mass destruction to the Iraq regime. Despite the failure of getting United Nations support, the moral outcries of some of our churches, the expressed opposition of half of the people, we launched the invasion anyway.

Now, nine years later, we are able to look back at those fateful days prior to March 19, 2003, and try to remember where we were and what we were doing. Were we in fear that our worst dread, an invasion of Iraq, would occur? Many of us did not want to believe that an invasion plan had been developed and that forces were positioned. We had confidence that saner people would prevail, and we would step back and not do an illegal, destructive,

Shock and awe, cont'd page 4

On March 19, 2-3 p.m., Veterans for Peace will present a public program at the First Shot Monument on the State Capitol grounds.

Points of light on the path to peace

by Larry Johnson, Chapter 27 President

Even our language is violent, as they teach us to make “bullet points” in “power point” presentations to get folks to pay attention to our message. Since our popular media-driven culture has trained most of us to think uncritically or comprehensively, “to the point” is good, but no bombs or bullets, please. Just the powerful force that prevents or ends all kinds of harm without hurting or killing people.

- **I'd never pay money** for G.W. Bush's *Decision Points*, but I borrowed it from my library to see what he had to say. He left a lot of stuff out, hoping we wouldn't notice. But when reacting to the criticism that he went into Iraq and said “Go shopping” rather than asking anyone to sacrifice, he said, “I don't think I ever said GO SHOPPING, but anyone who did was actively defying the wicked regime we went to stop.” I think he did tell people to go shop, or maybe it was “GO SPIN.”

- **I did a little research** on the connection between banks and war profits. Generally, big banks that leverage money for corporations like Halliburton, Bechtel, Boeing, Lockheed, etc., so they can all reap the rewards of war are also the ones foreclosing on multiple homes, including those of many veterans. It's sort of like, make a profit on war; then turn around and profit again on those devastated by it. While looking into this, I stumbled on a quote by Adam Smith (I think never a peace activist), who advised the financing of wars with taxes rather than public debt, because, “Wars would then, in general be more speedily concluded, and less wantonly undertaken. The people, feeling during the continuance of the war, the complete burden of it, would soon grow weary, and the government, in order to humor them, would not be under necessity to carry it on longer than necessary.” I guess the group that likes to selectively quote the Bible to justify whatever they're doing has the same habit with Adam Smith. I'm already banking at a Credit Union. I think I'll start telling my friends who lean heavily to the right that Adam Smith said to do that.

- **We went to the Occupy Minnesota** Block Party at

Bobby Hull's, the former Marine, whose foreclosure seems to have been staved off, largely by massive publicity started the night many of us stood behind him, with our VFP banner, when the whole issue went on national MSNBC. One of the organizers asked us to speak briefly, between the music and other performances, which is important, because it's young people leading this effort.

When many of us were young, we knew the problem. We faced the draft. Our lives were on the line, and we started to see it was for all the wrong reasons. This time, those who profit from war managed to keep everything hidden longer, but young people are now starting to speak out about the bad economy hurting them, and the media is covering it,

We faced the draft. Our lives were on the line, and we started to see it was for all the wrong reasons. This time, those who profit from war managed to keep everything hidden longer but young people are now starting to speak out about the bad economy hurting them, and the media is covering it.

which is very different from the way they ignored veterans who warned about this 10 years ago. Young people don't necessarily see the connection between massive war spending and the economy, so our presence is important to help them get it and to get the issue of

“How's the War Economy Working for You” into their messages.

- **I went to an educational reform** presentation, featuring Rick Mills, new CEO of the Minneapolis schools, who oversaw development of a massive ROTC presence in the Chicago schools, first as a military liaison and then as a civilian. When he was hired a few months back, we registered official concern, because the army recruiting manual states “School Ownership is the goal.” Also, a recent National School Board Assn. book, *Common Ground*, says that **since the military is the biggest employer in the country, schools should align teaching practices with theirs, so graduating students are ready to enter the work force.**

Back then, I was invited to lunch, where he assured me he is just here to improve student achievement, and our fears were unfounded. His “power point/bullet point” talk on comprehensive evaluation systems led me to the question: “My idea of an excellent teacher is someone who inspires students to find what they're good at, and to want it so bad they'll learn to read, write, ask questions, and research to learn everything about it so they can use it to

Points of Light, cont'd. next page

This War Business: Fear of Iran good for war business

by Tom Dooley

On BBC I heard that Islam prohibits nuclear weapons, which sounded good, but then I realized Pakistan is Islamic but has many nukes. Go figure.

For years now the U.S., Israel and others have worried that Iran is going to kill us all! They have no nukes; we have 5,000; Russia has 7,000; North Korea has a couple; Israel has perhaps 150. Iran's military budget is \$7 billion, while ours is \$700 billion. One U.S. submarine has more nuclear firepower than Iran will ever have! But it's the terrorism . . .

Iran is the center of world terrorism . . . they are trying to kill us! (See map on page 7)

That we know, and 9/11 was an awakening. A scorecard would look something like this:

World-wide terrorism deaths: 50,000 since 1968. These are deaths caused by AMATEUR terrorists. Deaths caused by PROFESSIONAL terrorists such as U.S., U.K., Russia and others number in the millions!

The "fear factor" generated by our leaders makes it easy to justify more billions for "defense" . . . correction . . . for "war."

Points of Light, from previous page

contribute positively in their community. In my experience, the system you're describing, squeezes teachers like that out. Can you comment on that?"

I wasn't even going to blatantly say something about the military, but I never got to ask the question. It appeared he circled around and took every other question (of which there were many), but never called on me, even though the event organizer kept pointing. I've been around too long to believe anything but that he didn't want this issue raised.

Fortunately, Lucia Wilkes-Smith, from WAMM, was sitting behind me and never had lunch with him. She asked a poignant question, as a former teacher, about the potential harm of military/big business type systems being imposed on children and teachers. I believe it was the only time the audience applauded, and all I can say is this: We'll be at all the Minneapolis high school career fairs this spring, to provide the information recruiters generally leave out when selling a military career. Call the office and volunteer and provide your perspective to young people.

• **Six months ago** I tried to find books in the library on war profiteering. There was virtually nothing, I guess because the selective information system didn't want people to know too much about how you can sell to both sides, heavily overcharge the Pentagon for shoddy equipment, and still keep doing business with the Pentagon, because "put-

ting regulations on defense contractors might discourage free enterprise."

I just found a 2011 book by Andrew Feinstein, *The Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms Trade*. I've also ordered 10 discount copies of David Swanson's new book, *The Military Industrial Complex at 50*. He is speaking at Peacestock July 14, and we all need to keep speaking out about something that should be considered unconscionable: that one could even think about making a profit from something as horrendous as warfare. When we enlisted, or were drafted, we were asked to sacrifice everything to keep our country free. If there is any truth at all in that statement, then the corporations and leaders who provide the weapons and services for such endeavors should be asked to make that same sacrifice.

Pay for the whole thing up front with taxes, as advised by Adam Smith, and provide what is needed by paying workers, but with no profit to shareholders and high-paid executives.

Call the office also and sign up to be at one or more of our many community events, where we sell canoe tickets to support our work, and get into conversations like this with people who want a great canoe, but might not otherwise even consider engaging with Veterans for Peace.

"A newspaper is not just for reporting the news as it is, but to make people mad enough to do something about it."
Mark Twain

Want updates by E-mail?

To receive Chapter #27 notices and information by email, please send the request to Bob Heberle, bjheberle@gmail.com. We now have a list of about 230 and would like to be able to reach more on a regular basis.

Father Bourgeois arrested, released

by Pat and Jennie Downey

Father Roy Bourgeois was held for three hours and released after a protest along the Mexico-New Mexico border on Sunday, Feb. 19. He was in a delegation of ten people who were part of a Project Puente "border immersion experience." No charges were filed.

The group was reading aloud the names of people who had died in the desert in failed attempts to cross the Mexico-U.S. border. Border Patrol officers took him into custody when he attempted to return to the U.S. "without inspection" after legally crossing into Mexico during a prayer service. The nearest legal entry point was a bridge 10 miles from the protest site.

Shock and Awe, from page 1

and what many called an immoral act of invading another country. We allowed ourselves to be fooled, and on March 19, 2003, after a massive air attack, we launched our land invasion.

By an action at their January meeting, Veterans for Peace Chapter 27 acted to not let March 19, 2012, pass without publicly calling to mind what we did and the consequences of our action. We will do this to remember where we were and what we were doing the day before the invasion. Some members have committed to fast from sundown on that day and Veterans for Peace will present a public program at the First Shot Memorial at the south end of the State Capital grounds at 2-3 p.m. that day

"When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men living in society, they create for themselves, in the course of time, a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it."

Frederic Bastiat, French writer and economist

Peace Education Project report

by John Sherman

This year the Peace Education Project will be getting into a record number of Career Fairs in the Minneapolis Public Schools.

We expect to be present at eight fairs this year with veterans speaking with youth about the realities of military service and offering some alternatives to such service.

We have developed over the years an impressive table of literature and DVDs that give the students a good idea of what they might expect if they enlist. We also offer personal perspectives on what we experienced and impress upon them the serious nature of what it means to choose a military path.

Getting into classrooms is a more difficult task, but we are getting into some through persistent efforts. And we will keep up this effort.

The Peace Education Project is sponsored by a coalition of area peace groups, primarily Veterans for Peace Chapter 27 and Women Against Military Madness. The purpose of the Project is to promote critical thinking and discussion among students on the issues of war and peace.

Veterans or others who wish to participate in the Peace Education Project should contact John Sherman at johnsherman60@gmail.com or at the VFP office at 612-821-9141.

The War Crimes Times

*Read what "THEY"
don't want you to read.*

*Know what "THEY"
don't want you to know.*

www.warcrimestimes.org

Soldiers: Know Your Rights

To Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan: You took an oath to uphold the Constitution, not to support policies that are illegal.

The GI Hotline phone number is: **1-800-394-9544**

The girl in The picture

by Joan Johnson

If you were around in 1972, you probably recall the news media's often-shown photo of nine-year-old Kim Phuc (photo at right), a South Vietnamese girl, now a Canadian citizen, who had been napalmed and was running for her life. The Pulitzer-Prize winning photograph by Associated Press photographer Nick Ut was instrumental in turning world-wide opinion against the American War in Vietnam. Now in her late 40s, Kim spoke to more than 300 people at an Eden Prairie church last Nov. 1. I felt privileged to be there and hear her powerful message of love, reconciliation, and hope for a peaceful world.

She spoke of the immense fear her family felt and the countless struggles they faced because of the war and of the pain and horror she and her family experienced when their village was napalmed. She felt searing pain when she ran as the skin on her arms and back burned and she was first laid in a morgue because she was expected to die. Even after 14 months of recovery and rehab, she still found it difficult to live a normal life. She felt intense political and societal pressures and was afflicted with headaches and chronic pain from her burns. She said that she carried a lot of hatred and bitterness for many years towards those who had hurt her and her family so much.

As she spoke, however, I detected no bitterness or hatred. Instead, she was extremely positive and carried a strong desire for peace in the world. She said that she has even talked with and forgiven the man who called the airstrikes on her village that day. Her journey to wholeness and the ability to reconcile with others has "taken many years and much work," she admits, giving a lot of credit to her strong faith in God. Fourteen years ago, UNESCO appointed Kim Phuc "goodwill ambassador for a culture of peace to spread a message of the need for reconciliation, mutual understanding, dialogue and negotiation to replace confrontation and violence." Around that same time, Kim established the Chicago-based Kim Foundation to help child victims of war.

After she spoke, the church had asked another Vietnamese woman to speak. Also named Kim, she talked for about 10 minutes about how we need to honor our military personnel. At the end of her talk, she solicited a round of applause for veterans and current soldiers. I sensed that the church organizers of this event may have been uncom-



AP photographer Nick Ut's Pulitzer-Prize winning photograph of Kim Phuc.

fortable with Kim Phuc's denunciation of war. After the event was over, and people were putting on coats and conversing, Kim Phuc asked to go on stage once more and said loudly into the microphone, "Look at that picture of me again. I was lucky to have a photographer who captured my image and made it public, but unfortunately there are thousands of child war victims past and present who do not get photographed, do not get their story told. So many innocent children are continuing to suffer and die needlessly because of war, without the rest of the world knowing. Ask yourself the question: 'Does God want us to continue in this mode of war, hatred and killing? Or does God want a world where we stop the violence, a world where love, acceptance and peace are fostered?'"

My niece and I loudly clapped and cheered after that speech, as we had in her earlier pronouncements about putting an end to war and promoting peaceful solutions. This may have been a new message for many of the listeners that day, and I really admired Kim Phuc for standing up again to make this very important point in the way that only she could.

For info about The Kim Foundation, please write: The Kim Foundation, PO Box 81024, Chicago, IL, 60681

Marv Davidov: My friend, my Inspiration

by Michael Orange

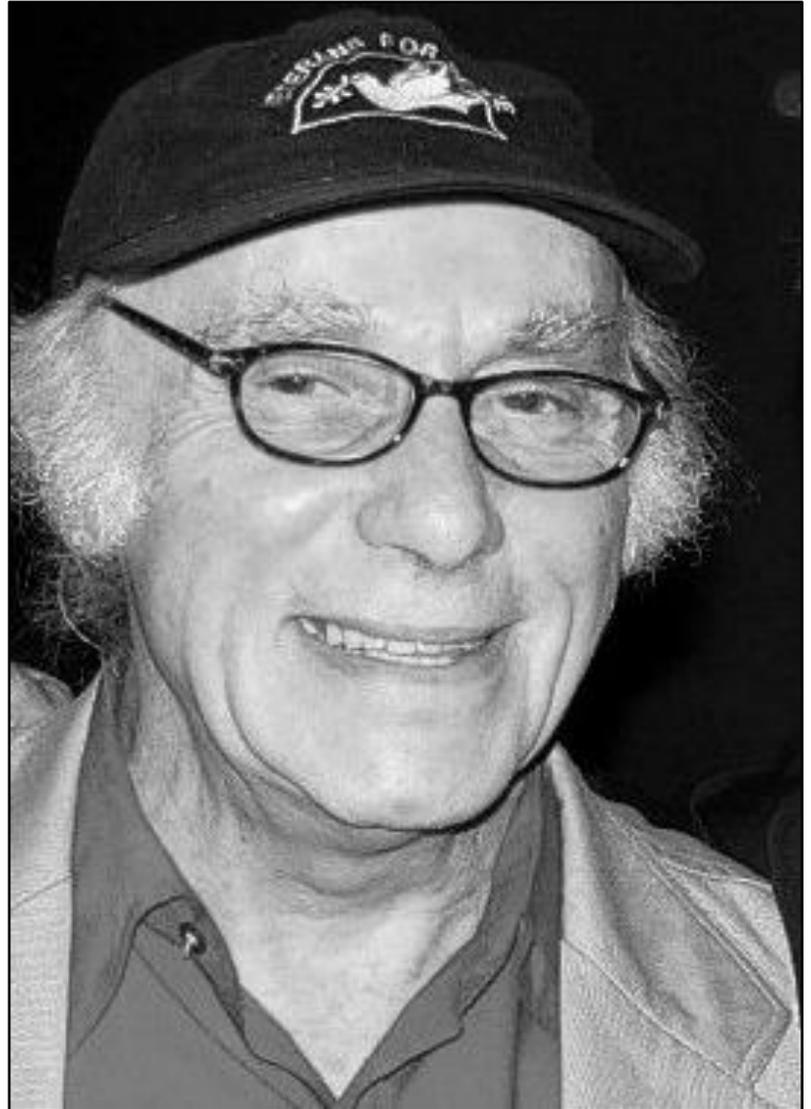
I was in Marv's room at the Walker United Health Care Center helping Marv's closest friend, Barbara Mishler, and my wife, Cynthia, with Marv's possessions after he died. We stepped out of the room when the guy from the Cremation Society arrived so he could do his job. A few minutes later, he told us he would now bring out Marv's body. He slowly wheeled the blanket-draped gurney out of the room and paused where the three of us had lined up to offer our deep respect and love for this giant of the peace and justice community. We said our last goodbyes and stood there for a few moments more, almost at attention, as one would do when the body of a dignitary or national hero passes for military review.

Marv and I were both in the service, and I thought of saluting but dismissed the idea, even though it always struck me that the story I heard Marv tell repeatedly was about the incident while in the Army that launched his activist vocation. He refused to participate in the brutal beating of another soldier, and that act of courage resulted in his own beating. If it wasn't his Greek fisherman's cap that covered his head, it was his faded Veterans for Peace hat, and as a fellow member of the organization, I wanted to pay tribute to his bravery.

With Marv's life of dedication and unflagging work across the country, it would be hard to find a famous peace and justice worker that didn't know Marv. He was admired and embraced by the likes of the late Howard Zinn and Phil Berrigan, Fr. Daniel Berrigan, Dave Dellinger, and Noam Chomsky, to name a few. In fact, the Justice Studies Association chose Marv for its 2007 Noam Chomsky Award.

Although acquaintances for two decades, Marv and I became good friends after he agreed to address the students in a class I co-taught in 2007 about Vietnam and the 60s. Wearing his Honeywell Project T-shirt (as did I), his bushy white hair exploded from under his Vets for Peace cap. "Mine was a breach birth," he began. "I came out feet first kicking and then screaming and I've been doing it ever since."

Then he recounted his Army story, as fresh as if it was the first time, complete with his characteristic drawn-out vowels and no-holds-barred-expletives. He finished an hour and a half later only pausing occasionally to breathe. He so transfixed the students that they ranked his presentation as



Marv Davidov

the highlight of the course.

On that Saturday morning with Marv, Cynthia and I joined Barbara, Bob Kolstad, and Nancy Peterson at his bedside as he lay dying. His breathing was somewhat labored and, for a time, he seemed to try to speak to Barbara who sat close to him on his bed.

Earlier, Barbara described some of the last words Marv spoke the day before he died. "I said to him, 'Marv, what should I do with the rest of my life?' He thought for a long, long time; so long that I thought he forgot the question. Finally, he turned to me and said: **'You must locate your deepest private feelings, philosophical, religious and spiritual, and then decide to live out these beliefs in a**

Davidov, cont'd. on next page

Davidov, from previous page

commensurate way, in public, as much as possible without compromise.’ It’s no surprise I loved and admired him immensely.”

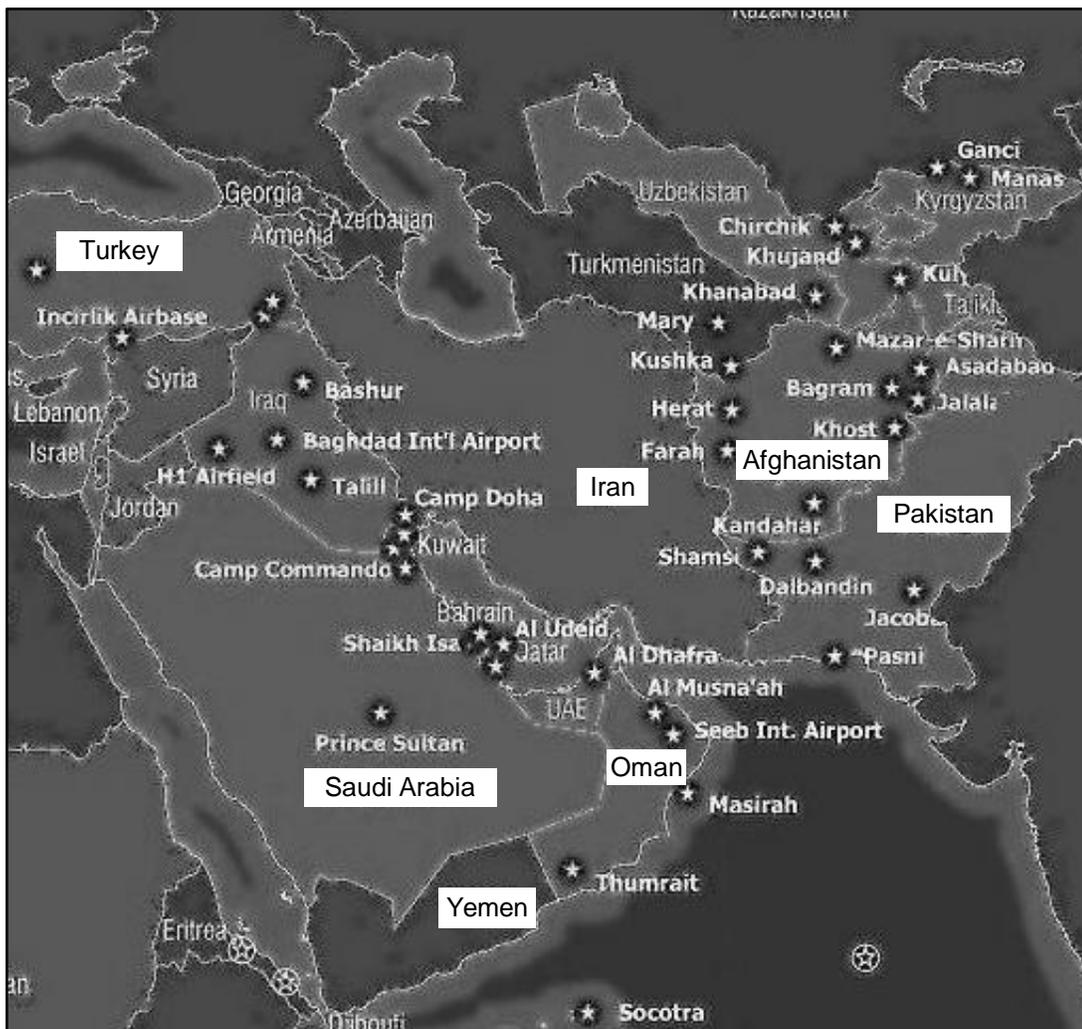
As we gathered close around Marv, Cynthia sang him the Beatles’ lullaby, “Goodnight.” He reached up to touch Barbara and she held his hand gently. He relaxed and his breathing grew softer. At about 1:15 p.m., he turned his face and gaze towards the ceiling as if he recognized something (or someone), then shut his eyes and died peacefully moments later.

Over the last months of his life, we started a little ritual when I visited him. I always gave him a little kiss on the top of his bald head as he laid in his bed, and we both said, “I love you.” Just before the tall man in the long black-leather coat took Marv for his last trip, I completed my role in our

ritual one last time.

About the Author: Michael Orange, a member of VFP Chapter 27 since 1991, served as a Marine in Vietnam and experienced combat in numerous search-and-destroy missions and patrols during his one-year tour of duty. Afterwards, he returned to his former university campus, Kent State, in May 1970, just before Ohio National Guardsmen shot 13 of his fellow students, killing four. In 2001, he published a memoir of his service, Fire in the Hole: A Mortarman in Vietnam. Michael teaches a class on the history of the Vietnam War at venues including the University of Minnesota’s Compleat Scholar Program.

One reason Iran might feel threatened



This map shows U.S. military bases in the Middle East surrounding Iran. According to Juan Cole, a professor of history and director of the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Michigan, “It shows only a few of the estimated 450 US military bases and outposts in Afghanistan. And it does not show drone bases, of which the US has 60 around the world.” Nor does it show the numerous naval vessels, including nuclear-armed submarines. He added that “Iraq and Uzbekistan no longer have American bases, but the US military now has a refueling station in Turkmenistan.”

It's Complicated: Women in the Military and Combat

by Chante Wolf

My sister sent me a video today that was well scripted with movie-type music honoring those 'fly boys' who save our freedoms. Funny thing is: 1) those 'freedoms' are never defined, just assumed; 2) there is no mention of any women veterans; and 3) there is always a reflection back to WWII.

After watching it, I had a meltdown. I sobbed and sobbed as a rush of so many emotions washed over my body. Suddenly I was back in the military as the cascading scenes flashed through me of my experiences, some of which were pride of being such a good airman, but the rest were not so much fun and were heart wrenching.

Then my mind went back to the other day when FOX News reporter, Liz Trotta, told viewers in response to the recent decision from the military about women serving in combat: "I think they have actually discovered there is a difference between men and women. And the sexual abuse report says that there has been, since 2006, a 64 percent increase in violent sexual assaults. Now, what did they expect? These people are in close contact, the whole airing of this issue has never been done by Congress, it's strictly been a question of pressure from the feminists."

Regardless of people's anger over our country's process of initiating its foreign policies, people who join the military do so for many reasons, including the belief that their service is protecting American citizens from harm and, supposedly, protecting their Constitutional rights. That includes women. Of course nowhere in any of the glossy brochures about joining the military is there any mention of being raped by their own superiors and/or military peers, along with torture and killing of unarmed citizens in the countries that we are supposedly liberating. Frankly, just being a woman civilian does not warrant their rape, assault or domestic violence acts against them either.

So, what is the point that the YouTube video my sister sent me and that right-wing commentators like Ms. Trotta are really trying to make about our military institution?

Not mentioned in the YouTube dedication was that during the Gulf War in 1991 our pilots were shown pornography before they executed their bombing (penetrating ejaculation) missions. Missing also from Ms. Trotta's personal

experience, obviously, is her own sexual trauma and military experience, though she seems to be enjoying the feminist movement paving the way for women to even be allowed into the type of job she has.

Is Ms. Trotta trying to tell us that men rape because that is what they do? And men will be men in the military as well, and so they too just rape for the sake of it (and boy could I go on here about the use of rape as an instrument of humiliation type of warfare). Okay, Gentlemen, where is YOUR outrage? And while I am on it, when and where have you spoken out against rape and other violence against women during your lifetime? Have you told your peers that

So, when are both sexes going to see the light and stop joining the military to prove themselves capable of barbaric acts and instead, work, really work, towards learning about other cultures, their language, religion, and how we can bridge the gap between ourselves to survive.

you don't support pornography, Playboy, Penthouse and Hustler for their depiction of women as objects to use, abuse and market products for?

Don't like that I have said that? Good! I shouldn't have to say it this way but how else is the rape and violence against women going to stop? Don't you think it is time for men to step up and take responsibility for this situation continuing year after year, generation after generation? You certainly don't want your mother, sister, girlfriend, partner or wife to be hunted, raped or beaten? Then why not say something to those who tell dirty jokes and whistle after women like they are just the latest cuts of meat or dogs in heat?

So, to return to the military, it goes back to the three things women are told for joining the military, that they are either a Bitch, Whore or Dyke. Of course, why would women want to learn to kill (never mind that men have to be taught as well), because they should be satisfied being a wife, mother and maid serving the man of the house, right? Why are they not happy being taken care of, like a caged animal? It seems to be okay that men join the military to prove themselves to be honorable, worthy of respect for killing other people (regardless that the reasons are often based on lies). When they come home, they are treated with respect, because those who didn't go and kill others are not as worthy of respect. Veterans supposedly get a lot of extra attention when they return home, except perhaps from those who opposed the war in the first place; then the "Spitting Image" is again dredged up to shut up anyone with a differing opinion about war and the senseless destruction of our

Women and combat, cont'd. next page

Women and combat, from previous page

Mother Earth.

But when women wanted to be recognized for being just as capable of such a sacrifice, we are labeled otherwise and told to expect rapes and beatings. Really?

So, being raped and beaten is something men are taught in order for them to be respected in our society and women just asked for it? We asked for it when we dress the way the clothing stores, designers and TV advertisers show us how we must be in order to 'get a man,' and when we do that and are raped and attacked, we are sluts, whores and got what we deserved. Somehow the women who hid behind the makeup, hats, sunglasses and long-sleeved blouses hiding their beatings were more respected because they didn't whine about what happened to them. Being a "kept" woman was more honorable than being able to do a man's work.

Women who stand up for themselves and bark back are labeled 'bitches', and those who get raped are 'sluts', and those who don't confine their bodies to high heels and tight dresses are 'dykes.'

So, back to the protecting the 'Freedoms' of Americans, what exactly is that? Women aren't suppose to complain about their husbands' infidelity or violence against them because they work so hard to keep a roof over their heads and food on their plates, just like the pilots needed to be 'serviced' by the young and pretty because their jobs were so dangerous that they may die during their next mission.

This is the 21st Century. Much has changed, and many freedoms have been secured. However, they were not secured by war, rape, torture and the utter destruction of cities and infrastructures of the countries we bombed back to the Stone Age. I am glad to see that we continue to move forward so all our "enemies" can enjoy the same freedoms we do, as soon as they can get their crops to grow through Agent Orange, depleted uranium and unexploded clutter bombs and land-minds!

So, when are both sexes going to see the light and stop joining the military to prove themselves capable of barbaric acts and instead, work, *really* work, towards learning about other cultures, their languages, religions, and how we can bridge the gap between ourselves to survive? Because when the banking and capitalism spin on life fails, it will be us with nature working with others just to put food on the table and women can do it just as well as the men. Period.

Military spending is uneconomic

by Steve McKeown

Many of you are familiar with the military spending postcards that VFP member Tom White supplies us with that give a comparative analysis of what other countries spend on their military and what could be done instead with what we spend.

Now you can see on YouTube on the Global Network Against Weapons in Space website one of the best concise presentations I've come across on the subject. The program is from *Real News* hosted by Paul Jay interviewing Robert Pollin called "Military Spending, Bang For The Buck?"

Pollin is the co-director of the Univ. of Mass. Amherst Political Institute. His 2011 study is titled "The U.S. Employment Effects on Military and Domestic Spending Priorities." One of the highlights of the interview was a question by Jay: "What does Secretary of Defense Panetta mean when he says this (the proposed \$60 billion defense cut) is going to be almost a \$1 trillion loss and add one percent to the unemployment rate?"

Pollin's response was that although he would rather see the money shifted to better stimulate manufacturing in the green economy, "even if you take money out of the military and give it back to lower taxes and let people spend it on whatever they want, you get 35 percent more of expenditures."

How he arrived at these figures on this is brought out in simple, straightforward, and documented manner. His study compared how many jobs are created when \$1 billion is spent in different sectors of the economy to how many defense industries create. I encourage everyone to watch this and let others know about it.

The study found the following: when money is diverted from defense industries to other sectors, simple tax cuts for personal consumption creates 34.8 percent more jobs; clean energy expenditures created 50 percent more jobs; money spent on health care will create 53.6 percent more jobs; and money spent on education will create 138.4 percent more jobs than that same amount of money spent on defense.

Check out this and other excellent work done by the Global Network Against Weapons In Space. It is coordinated by Maine VFP members Bruce Gagmon and Mary Beth Sullivan.

You can view the video at
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=NohnJyG8EQo

EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

Second Sunday each month, 6-8:30 p.m.:
VFP Chapter 27 general meeting, St. Stephens Church.
Executive meeting at 5 p.m.
2123 Clinton Ave. S. Ring doorbell on north door.
FFI Larry Johnson at 612-747-3904

Mar 18, 2 p.m. program. Iraq invasion memorial with sunrise to sunset fast. Memorial program at First Shot Memorial at State Capital at 2 p.m. Fast at St. Paul Cathedral. (see article by Wayne Wittman on page 1.) FFI: 651-774-4008.

April 11-17 2012 School of the Americas Watch spring action in Washington D.C.

May 1, 2012 VFP marching unit in May Day parade

May 15 to May 20, Coalition Against NATO/G8
War and Poverty Agenda protests in Chicago under the banner "Jobs,Housing,Healthcare,Education,Pensions,Environment, Not War 612-379-3899

May 28, 9:30 a.m., Memorial Day Service at Vietnam War Memorial on the State Capitol Approach
FFI: Barry Riesch 651-641-1087

July 14 Peacestock, 10 a.m. featuring Roy Bourgeois.
FFI: 651-388-7733

Aug. 8-12, VFP National Convention Miami, FL

For information on vigils, go to the VFP website at vfpchapter27.org or call 612-827-5364 or visit www.worldwidewamm.org

Drones are coming to a sky near you

by Frank Fuller

Imagine that the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Department or the St. Paul Police had drones in the skies during the Republican National Convention in 2008. It’s easy to think that their paranoia would have led to more raids, more arrests, more court cases, more suppression of Constitutional rights. And as a result today they would have a much larger database of faces and names of those they believe to be security risks.

Well, the day when they have these tools is quickly approaching. President Obama recently signed into law a bill that requires Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to “integrate drones into American airspace by 2015.”

Experts estimate that 30,000 drones will be in use in the U.S. within 10 years, and certainly many of them would be used illegally or unethically. There are reports that the New York City Police Department, which recently spied on and created dossiers on peaceful Muslims in New Jersey, is experimenting with drones. Other cities have already purchased them.

A group of 30 organizations concerned with civil liberties, including the ACLU, the American Library Association, Electronic Privacy Information Center, The Constitution Project, The Council of American Islamic Relations, Patient Privacy Rights, and the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, wrote to the FAA in February asking that it “conduct a rulemaking to address the threat to privacy and civil liberties that will result from the deployment of aerial drones within United States.”

The letter states: “The increased use of drones poses an ongoing threat to every person residing within the United States. . . . The ability to link facial recognition capabilities on drone cameras to the FBI’s Next Generation Identification database or DHS’ IDENT database . . . increased the First Amendment risks for would-be political dissidents. . . . With special capabilities and enhanced equipment, drones are able to conduct far-more detailed surveillance, obtaining high-resolution picture and video, peering inside high-level windows, and through solid barriers, such as fences, trees, and even walls.”

The letter also requests that the FAA should conduct a “notice and comment rulemaking on the impact of privacy and civil liberties related to the use of drones in the United States” and that its rulemaking should “consider the application of the Privacy Act of 1974 to the information gathered by drone operators.”

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Please let us know if you want to receive our newsletter by email.
Contact: chantewolf7@gmail.com

Finding new members

In recent years, U.S. military vets have been dying at the rate of 5,000 a week, but there’s still a few million out there who would join VFP if they knew we existed and if they were asked. Give them our name and contact information. Better yet, give us their names and information and we’ll contact them.

Occupy Minneapolis update

by Pat and Jennie Downey

*“There is a dream in the land!
With its back against the wall...
To save the dream for one
Is to save the dream for all.”*

-Langston Hughes

Occupy Minneapolis has given us an opportunity to join the movement and support and learn from one another. Its power lies in direct appeal to the hearts and minds of the population at large, the 99 percent.

The disparity of the bailouts is one reason for its appeal.

Bobby Hull, Vietnam-era Veteran, served with the U.S. Marines. Since 1968, he has lived in his home in South Minneapolis. He had a home loan through Bank of America. He worked for four decades as a plaster worker until rotator cuff surgery left him unable to work. Bank of America refused to provide reasonable loan modification. U.S. Bank purchased his home at the Sheriff’s sale for about one third of what Hull owed on his loan.

If the Bank of America had negotiated the loan to what

U.S. Bank purchased it for, Hull would have been able to make his payments. Hull and his family are facing eviction this winter.

Perhaps the housing crisis would look much differently today if the federal government had provided grants or direct loans to vulnerable owners instead of to the banks.

Big banks are devastating African-American neighborhoods through foreclosures and hurting schools in poor neighborhoods.

We joined the Occupation one Friday night at Bobby Hull’s house with many others and heard numerous foreclosure stories. The Occupy Minneapolis RE-Gathering Weekend was held at the Mpls. Federation of Teachers Headquarters on Saturday and Sunday. Occupy committees and groups met and discussed what issues needed to be addressed; what the elements of building a healthy community were; and banks, foreclosures, education, networking and connecting.

One of our discussions was about the corporate campaign to arouse enmity toward members of the Occupy Movement. I talked to several VFP members, and we are committed to using our peacemaking skills with ourselves and the Occupy Movement. For further information call 612-529-3551.

2012 Canoe/tabling events

**Below are the tentative canoe raffle/tabling events for 2012.
We need volunteers to step forward and participate in these events.
The canoe raffle represents the largest source of funding for Chapter 27 and our participation and visibility at these events provides a huge opportunity to spread the word that there are better ways to resolve differences than killing people. Please contact Greg Hagen to help out or offer suggestions for other venues at (651) 730-1143 or at ghagen55@comcast.net**

Event Name	Date(s)	Location	Days
Midwest Mountaineering Canoe Event	Apr. 28	May Day Books, Mpls.	0.5
Bryn Mawr Garage Sale	May 5	Bryn Mawr, Mpls.	1
Linden Hills Festival	May 20	Linden Hills, Mpls.	1
St. Anthony Park Festival	June 2	St. Anthony Park	1
Grand Ole Days	June 3	Grand Ave., St. Paul	1
Pride Festival (Two Days)	June 23-24	Loring Park, Mpls.	2
Black Dog (Farmer's Market)	July 14	St. Paul (Farmer's Market)	1
River City Days - Chaska	July 27-28	Chaska (Downtown)	2
River City Days - Red Wing	Sept. 4-5	Red Wing (Levee Park)	2
St. Thomas the Apostle Just Giving Fair	Dec. 1-2	St. Thomas the Apostle	2



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 Minneapolis, MN 55404

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Spring 2012 Newsletter

**SUPPORT
 THE TROOPS!
 BRING THEM HOME
 ALIVE
 NOW!**

As of Mar. 1, 2012:
 4,486 dead in Iraq and
 1,908 dead in Afghanistan.

Support Mayday Books

*Find a wide range of books
 and periodicals at 15% off
 cover price. All the time!*

301 Cedar Ave., West Bank
 (downstairs under the bike shop)

Mayday Books has been a consistent and significant supporter of Chapter 27 for many years. The volunteer staff has provided help with mailings and has donated books for the use of our group. It is also a great place to drop in and have a cup of coffee and talk with whomever happens to be there and find that book you have been looking for.

Hours: M-F noon to 7 p.m.,
 Sat. noon to 6 p.m.

Comparison of annual fatality risks

These statistics are taken from a 2010 analysis by John Mueller a political science professor at Ohio State University, and Mark G. Steward, of the school of engineering at the University of Newcastle. It raises the question: why do we budget \$800 billion annually for defense and security, including the Department of Homeland Security, when terrorism is such a low risk?

Hazard	Area	Years	Total deaths those years	Annual fatality risk
Cancers	US	2009	560,000	1 in 540
Traffic accidents	US	2008	34,017	1 in 8,000
Terrorism	No. Ireland	1970-2007	1,758	1 in 43,000
Industrial accidents	US	2007	5,657	1 in 53,000
Intifada	Israel	2000-2006	553	1 in 72,000
Terrorism	US	2001	2982	1 in 101,000
Natural disasters	US	1999-2008	6,294	1 in 480,000
Terrorism	UK	1970-2007	2,196	1 in 1,100,000
Deer accidents	US	2006	150	1 in 2,000,000
Terrorism	US	1970-2007	3,292	1 in 3,500,000
Lightning	US	1999-2008	424	1 in 7,000,000
Terrorism	war zones	1975-2003	13,971	1 in 12,500,000
Terrorism	US	1970-2000	309	1 in 30,000,000
Terrorism	Australia	1970-2007	25	1 in 33,300,000
Terrorism	US	2002-2007	1	1 in 1,800,000,000